Case Docket No.: 4007-8007
Date: June 18, 1999

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) is the patent application of:
Inventor(s): LACEY, Dwayne
For: HEAD MASSAGING DEVICE
This application is a -- continuation -- divisional -- continuation-in-part of Application No. _/_____.

XX Specification (7 pages)
XX 1 sheet of drawings
XX Declaration and Power of Attorney
XX Newly executed
__ Copy from a prior application for continuation or divisional
XX Early notification of Serial Number Postcard
__ An Information Disclosure Statement with PTO-1449 and __ references.
__ A Preliminary Amendment
__ An assignment of the invention to -- with PTO-1595
__ A certified copy of -- _____ application(s) No.(s) --_____
XX A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27
XX A filing fee, calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	Small Entity			Other Than A Small Entity	
FOR:	No. Filed	No. Extra	RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE				$380	or		$760
TOTAL CLAIMS	11 - 20 =	0	× 9 =	0	or	× 18 =	--
INDEP CLAIMS	1 - 3 =	0	× 39 =	0	or	× 78 =	--
__ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED			+130 =	0	or	+260 =	--
			TOTAL	$380	or		--

* If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2

Check No. 281 in the amount of $ 380.00 is enclosed to cover the filing fee. In the event that this check becomes detached or is insufficient, and/or if any additional fees are required with respect to the filing of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0788 (and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0788).

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin C. Brown

By: Kevin C. Brown
Reg. No. 32,402

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SMALL ENTITY DECLARATION

APPLICANT: DWAYNE LACEY SERIAL NO.: (Unknown--New Application)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. _____ FILED: herewith

TITLE: Head Massaging Device

I (we) hereby declare that I (we) am (are) entitled to the benefit of small entity status with respect to the above-identified application or patent for purposes of paying reduced fees under 35 U.S.C. §§41(a) and (b) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I am ☐ THE OWNER ☑ AN OFFICIAL of the small business concern identified below and am empowered to act on behalf of the concern. The concern qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) and 13 C.F.R. §121.1301 - 121.1305. Rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the concern and are exclusive.

I (we) acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate [37 C.F.R. §1.28(b)].

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Name of Concern or Organization: _____

Address:

By DWAYNE LACEY
Name of Person Signing

Signature

Title

17/6/99.
Date

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HEAD MASSAGING DEVICE

The present invention relates to a head massaging device.

Massaging of the human body is well known and is used to achieve numerous different effects. For example massaging may be used in physiotherapy for pain relief or to assist in the healing of damaged muscles or tendons. Massaging is also a well established technique for relieving stress and tension and providing physical relaxation, stimulation and pleasure.

Massaging is predominantly performed by direction hand/finger manipulation although hand held massaging tools are also known. These tools can be broadly categorised into powered (eg electrically powered) and manual tools.

Of the manual massaging tools very few have been made specifically for massaging the head and scalp. One tool that is known comprises four small wooden spheres connected to a larger central and raised wooden sphere by short wooden rods. The largest sphere acts as a handle to push and rub the smaller spheres against the body. These spheres can be applied to the head to massage the head and scalp.

The present invention was devised to produce an alternate form of manual head/scalp massaging device.

According to the present invention there is provided a head massaging device comprising a plurality of resilient fingers defining a head receiving space having an opening at one end formed by the juxtaposition of respective free ends of the fingers, the opening being smaller than the head whereby, in use, when the device is lowered onto the head so that the head enters the space through the opening, the free ends of the fingers apply pressure to and thus massage the head.

Preferably the fingers are pliable to that the size and shape of the opening can be varied.

Preferably the free end of each finger is smoothly terminated.

Preferably each free end is terminated in a bulb or ball like structure.

Preferably the free end of each fingers terminates in a resin bulb or ball like structure.

Preferably the fingers are made of wire.

Preferably the fingers are electrically conductive.

Preferably the fingers are made of copper wire.

Preferably the head massaging device comprises between four and twenty four fingers.

Preferably the opposite ends of the fingers are connected together.

Preferably the connected opposite ends of the fingers terminate in or otherwise form a handle for gripping and manipulating the massaging device.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by reference to the accompanying drawing.

The head massaging device 10 comprises a plurality of resilient fingers 12 defining a head receiving space 14 having an opening 16 at one end formed by the relative juxtaposition of the respective free ends 18 of the fingers 12. The opening 16 is smaller than the size of the head so that in use when the device 10 is lowered onto the head so that the head enters the space through the opening 16, the free ends 18 of the fingers 12 apply pressure to, and thus massage, the head.

The fingers 12 are pliable so that the size and shape of the openings 16 can be varied to suit different people. That is, the fingers 12 can be bent to ensure that the opening 16 is of a size so that the free ends 18 contact the head/scalp of a person when the device 10 is lowered onto the head with the head entering the space 14 through opening 16.

The characteristics of resilience and pliability of the fingers 12 can be achieved by making the fingers 12 from wire. Copper wire is particularly well suited because of its wide availability and low cost. It may be beneficial for the wire making up the fingers 12 to be electrically conductive, which of course will follow if the wire is made from copper.

To ensure that the free ends 18 do not scratch the scalp, they are smoothly terminated. This can be achieved by terminating the free end of each finger in a bulb or ball like structure. This structure can be formed integrally with the fingers 12. Alternately, bulb or ball like structures can be fixed or otherwise attached to the free ends 18. One way of doing this is to dip the lower ends of the fingers 18 into a resin then lift the fingers 12 out of the resin so that as the resin flows down each of the fingers 12 it collects and forms a droplet depending from the free ends 18 which upon hardening forms the bulb or ball like structure.

Opposite ends 20 of the fingers 12 are connected together to form part of a handle 22 for gripping and manipulating the device 10. When the fingers 12 are made of wire, the free ends 20 are simply twisted and otherwise wound together. A plastic or other sheath 24 can be slipped over the free ends 20 to make the handle 22 easier to grip.

By making the fingers 12 pliable, the device 10 can be easily packaged and stored in a flat rectangular box by simply flattening half of the fingers 12 on opposite sides of the handle 22. When it is desired to use the device 10 the fingers 12 are simply spread out about the handle 22 from the flat condition.

Now that an embodiment of the massaging device 10 has been described in detail it will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant arts and numerous modifications and variations can be made without departing from the basic inventive concepts. For example, the embodiment illustrated depicts a device 10 having eight fingers 12. However the device 10 can be made with any number of fingers with the preferred minimum number being four and preferred maximum number being twenty four. Further, the fingers 12 may be made from plastics, synthetic materials or composites. It is also stressed that the pliability of the fingers 12 is not an essential characteristic of the device 10. If the fingers 10 are made solely from a plastics material then they will still have the resilient characteristic as required by not the preferred feature of pliability. In yet a further variation, each finger 12 can be made as a dual or multi component element having at least a first lower element which includes the free ends 18 being made from a resilient material and a second upper component that can provide the feature of pliability. For example, each finger 12 can be made from the first lower length of plastics material which includes the free end 18 and an upper length say of wire joined to the lower length (for example by an adhesive or epoxy resin) leading to the handle 22 to provide the characteristic of pliability to the finger 12. This then allows the finger 12 to be flattened for storage and opened up for use as well as allowing reshape and resizing of the opening 16. Also, there are numerous alternatives for smoothly terminating the free end 18 of each finger 12. For example, a plastic or metal sleeve having a smooth end can be applied and otherwise affixed to the free end 18 of each finger provided there is a smooth termination. Alternately, the free end 18 of each finger may simply be machined or otherwise worked to provide a smooth termination.

All such modifications and variations are deemed to be within the scope of the present invention the nature of which is to be determined from the above description and the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A head massaging device comprising a plurality of resilient fingers defining a head receiving space having an opening at one end formed by the juxtaposition of respective free ends of the fingers, the opening being smaller than the head whereby, in use, when the device is lowered onto the head so that the head enters the space through the opening, the free ends of the fingers apply pressure to and thus massage the head.

2. The device according to claim 1 wherein the fingers are pliable to that the size and shape of the opening can be varied.

3. The device according to claim 2 wherein the free end of each finger is smoothly terminated.

4. The device according to claim 3 wherein each free end is terminated in a bulb or ball like structure.

5. The device according to claim 4 wherein the free end of each fingers terminates in a resin bulb or ball like structure.

6. The device according to claim 3 wherein the fingers are made of wire.

7. The device according to claim 6 wherein the fingers are electrically conductive.

8. The device according to claim 3 wherein the fingers are made of copper wire.

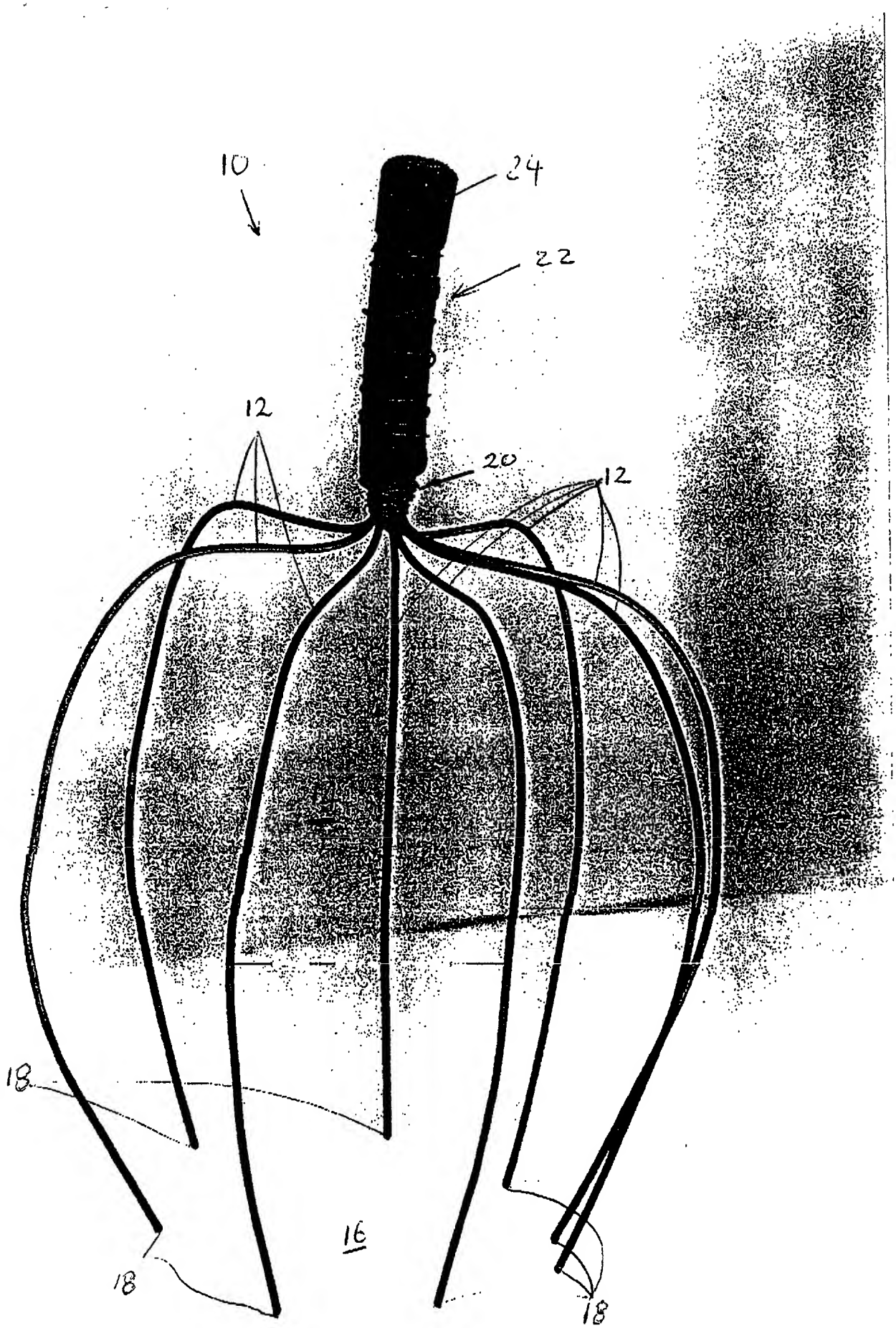
9. The device according to claim 1 wherein there are between four and twenty four fingers.

10. The device according to claim 1 wherein the opposite ends of the fingers are connected together.

11. The device according to claim 10 wherein the connected opposite ends of the fingers terminate in or otherwise form a handle for gripping and manipulating the massaging device.

ABSTRACT

A head massaging device 10 comprises a plurality of resilient fingers 12 defining a head receiving space 14 having an opening 16 at one end formed by the relative juxtaposition of the respective free ends 18 of the fingers 12. The opening 16 is smaller than the size of the head so that in use when the device 10 is lowered onto the head so that the head enters the space 14 through the opening 16, the free ends 18 of the fingers 12 apply pressure to, and thus massage, the head. The massaging effect is enhanced by continuous raising, rotating and lowering of the device 10 on the head.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BROWN & ASSOCIATES Docket Number: _____

Declaration and Power of Attorney For U.S. Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

1. My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below my name.

2. I believe I am the original, sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled Head Massaging Device, the specification of which is attached hereto.

3. I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above.

4. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

5. I hereby appoint as principal attorney Kevin C. Brown, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Registration No. 32,402, to prosecute the above-identified application (and any continuation, division or continuation-in-part thereof) and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

6. Please direct all communications concerning this application to the following address:

Brown & Associates
115 South Royal Street, Suite 148
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Telephone: (703) 768-1293
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7. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or under §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International Application having a filing date before that of the application(s) for which priority is claimed:

(Application Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Priority Claimed ☒ Yes ☐ No

8. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issued thereon.

Sole Inventor's signature: _____ Date 17/6/99

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